



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing**  
**Office: (601) 359-1163; cell: (662) 312-5897**  
**E-mail: [paige@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:paige@mdac.ms.gov)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and Mississippi Department of Education  
Collaborate to Recognize Farm to School Week**

**What: Mississippi Farm to School Week Celebration**

**Who: Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce & Mississippi  
Department of Education**

**Special Attendees: Governor Phil Bryant, Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy  
Hyde-Smith, Interim Deputy Superintendent of Education Dr. Kim Benton, and  
Director of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools for Mississippi Department of  
Education Scott Clements**

**When: October 2, 2012 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Where: Rouse Elementary School, Brandon, MS**

**Jackson, Miss.** –The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is collaborating with the Mississippi Department of Education to celebrate Mississippi's first Farm to School Week on Tuesday, October 2, at Rouse Elementary School in Brandon, Mississippi, where activities will begin at 11:45 a.m. At 11:45 a.m., students will have the opportunity to get to know the farmers that grew some of the Mississippi-grown items on the menu that day, including cucumbers, peas, tomatoes, and blueberries. At 12:00 p.m., Governor Phil Bryant, Agriculture Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith, Interim Deputy State Superintendent of Education Dr. Kim Benton, Director of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools for Mississippi Department of Education Scott Clements, and the participating farmers will be joining the students for lunch.

The first week in October was designated as Mississippi Farm to School Week by the Mississippi Legislature earlier this year. Farm to School Week was introduced to encourage the serving of locally grown and locally raised agricultural products in school meals and to recognize the substantial economic health benefits of farm to school programs. During the first week of October, many schools around the state will be incorporating Mississippi grown products, including produce, into their menus. Farm to School Week will draw attention to the vast number of crops that are grown in the state as well as serve as an educational tool to teach children where their food comes from.

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**Note: The media is invited to attend. Any media attending will need to report to the main office upon arrival to the campus to be escorted to the activities.**